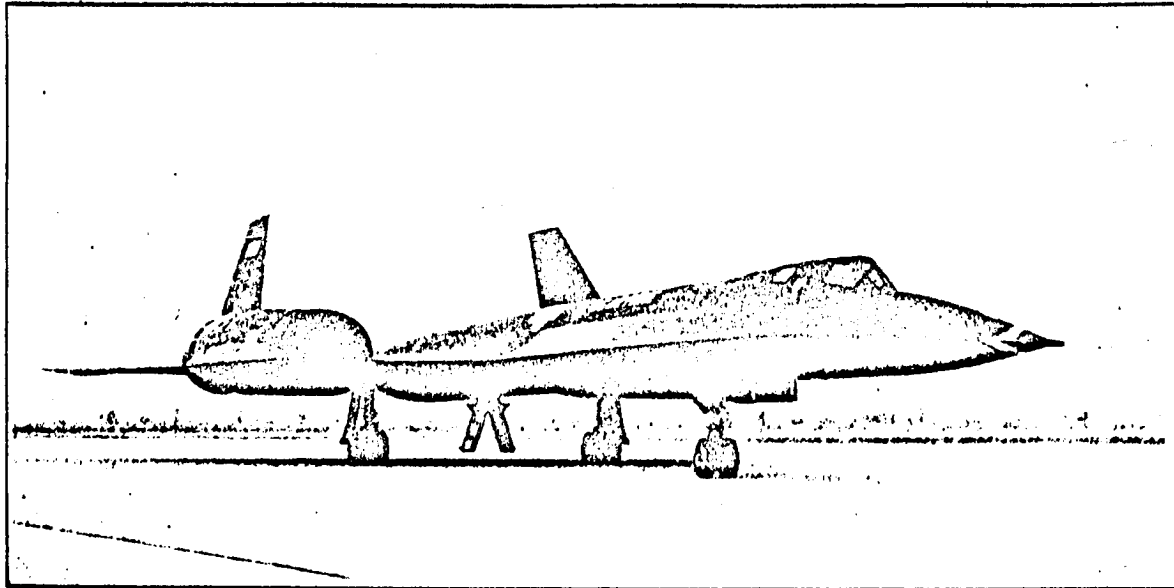


# U.S. Air Force Information Sheet

## SR-71

OCTOBER 1967



### GENERAL INFORMATION

The SR-71 is a long-range, advanced strategic reconnaissance aircraft. One of the fastest and highest flying aircraft in the world, it was delivered to the Strategic Air Command in January 1966.

Powered by two J58 turbojets, the same engines used in the prototype YF-12A interceptor, the SR-71 is substantially heavier and has a longer range than does the YF-12A. The J58 engine was the first engine flight-qualified at Mach 3 for the Air Force. Each of the engines is mounted in a large nacelle well out on the delta wing away from the aircraft's pencil-shaped fuselage.

Capable of both pre-attack and post-attack strategic reconnaissance missions, the SR-71 carries a wide variety of advanced observation equipment. Flying at 2,000 m.p.h., it can survey 60,000 square miles of the earth's surface in one hour from an altitude of 80,000 feet.

The SR-71, which evolved from the YF-12A, was developed for its specific tasks by Lockheed Aircraft Corp.

First flight was on Dec. 22, 1964. The SR-71 flew up to more than 45,000 feet at 1,000 m.p.h. under initial test flight restrictions.

The SR-71 is operated by the Strategic Air Command's 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Beale AFB, Calif.

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SPECIFICATIONS

Primary Function: Strategic reconnaissance

Prime Contractor: Lockheed Aircraft Corp.

Power Plant/Manufacturer: Two Pratt & Whitney J58 turbojets

Dimensions: Span 55'; length slightly more than 107'; height 18'6"

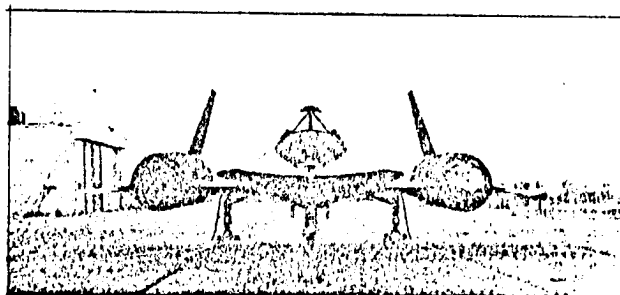
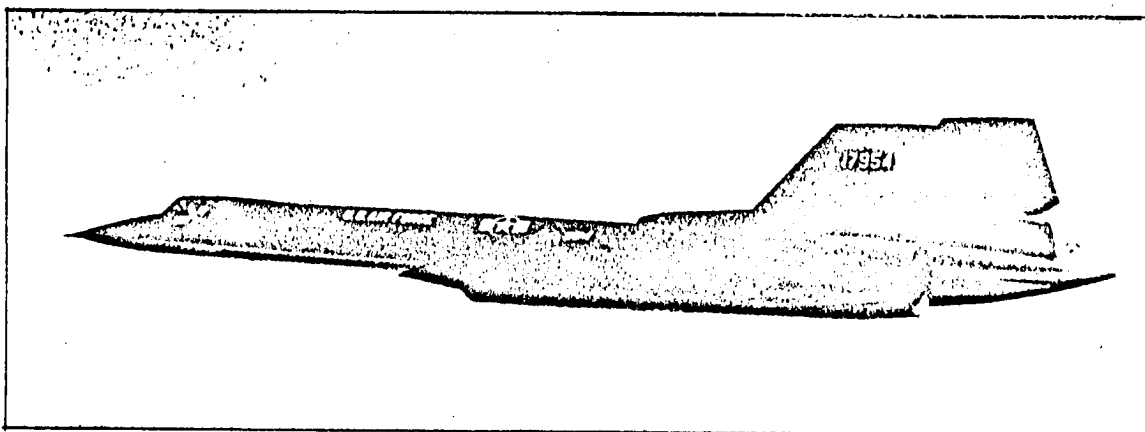
Speed: Mach 3 (more than 2,000 m.p.h.)

Ceiling: More than 80,000 feet

Range: More than 2,000 miles; global with aerial refueling

Crew: Two, pilot and reconnaissance systems officer

Status: Operational



(Supersedes U.S. Air Force Information Sheet dated June 1965)